added items like spice oils and oleoresins, spice blends and mixes and also export in branded consumer packs.

(2) Sending delegations/study teams to selected markets for market promotion.

(3) Arranging buyer-seller meets in India for business development

(4) Participating in selected international fairs and exhibitions.

(5) To popularise various brands of Indian spices and to develop loyalty to Indian Brands, the Spices Board have introduced a Brand Promotion Scheme.

(6) Taking up development and research programmes for increasing productivity and production of spices.

(7) Undertaking various steps such as grower education and establishment of quality upgradation laboratory for improving cleanliness of Indian spices to meet importers requirements.

The exchange rate adjustment and the enlarged REP Scheme are expected to give an impetus to the growth in export of spices.

Export of Rubber

4200. SHRI P. C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be *pleased to state :*

(a) whether there is a scope for increasing the export of rubber; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) The demand supply gap in respect of natural rubber still persists. As such, there is no proposal to export rubber at present.

[Translation]

Import and Export of Cotton

4201. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of import and export of cotton during the years 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91, separately;

(b) whether more foreign exchange can be earned by exporting the cotton textiles instead of cotton; and

(c) if so, the reasons for exporting cotton itself ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) The details of export of cotton during the cotton seasons 1988-89 to 1990-91 are as follows :—

Cotton season (Sept-August)	Quantity (in lakh bales of 170 Kgs. each)	Value (Rs. in crores)
1988-89	0.76	72.14
1989-90	13.71	610.52
1990-91 (Provisional)	11.88	560.10

During the cotton seasons 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91, there was no import of cotton by the Government.